

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
ERIC K. MERRING,

Plaintiff,

- against -

THE TOWN OF TUXEDO, NEW YORK, THE TOWN OF  
TUXEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF TUXEDO  
POLICE OFFICER ANTHONY DELIA, SHIELD NUMBER  
24, TOWN OF TUXEDO POLICE SERGEANT PATRICK  
WELSH, SHIELD NUMBER 17,

Defendants.

CV NO.

COMPLAINT  
WITH JURY  
DEMAND

'07 CIV 10381

-----X  
BRIEANT

Plaintiff, ERIC K. MERRING (hereinafter "plaintiff" or  
"MERRING"), in the above-captioned action, by his attorney, LEE DAVID KLEIN,  
ESQ., complaining of the defendants herein, does hereby complain and sets forth and  
alleges as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE:**

1. This is a civil action brought pursuant to Title 42 of the United  
State Code, Sections 1983 and 1985, seeking relief and/or damages to defend and protect  
the rights guaranteed to the plaintiff by the Constitution and laws of the United States.  
Accordingly, the jurisdiction of this Court is invoked by plaintiff pursuant to Title 28 of  
the United States Code, Sections 1331 and 1343, federal common law and the Court's  
pendent jurisdiction.

2. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over claims relating to violations of the Constitution and laws of the State of New York, pursuant to Title 28 of the United States Code, Section 1367.

3. The controversies in this case are justiciable, capable of disposition, and plaintiff has a personal stake in the outcome.

4. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

5. Venue is placed in this district, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391, because it is where the defendants reside and where all the events complained of occurred.

**JURY DEMAND:**

6. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues, pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38.

**NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS:**

7. This is an action for compensatory and punitive damages owing to the plaintiff as a result of the acts and/or omissions of the defendants.

**PARTIES:**

8. At all times hereinafter mentioned, MERRING was and remains a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the County of Delaware, State of New York, residing at 343 Bob Holloway Road, Delancey, New York 13752.

9. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant THE TOWN OF TUXEDO ("TOWN") was and remains a municipal corporation, incorporated and operating under the laws of the State of New York and located in the County of Orange, State of New York.

10. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant THE TOWN OF TUXEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT ("POLICE DEPARTMENT") was and remains a municipal agency operating under the laws of the State of New York, under the supervision and control of the defendant TOWN, and located in the Town of Tuxedo, County of Orange, State of New York, at 1075 State Route 17, Tuxedo, New York 10987. Upon information and belief, the POLICE DEPARTMENT was and is the principal law enforcement agency for the TOWN.

11. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, defendant TOWN OF TUXEDO POLICE OFFICER ANTHONY DELIA, SHIELD NUMBER 24 (hereinafter referred to as "OFFICER DELIA" or "DELIA"), was and is a citizen of the United States, and currently resides in the State of New York, with a last known business address at TOWN OF TUXEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT, located at 1075 State Route 17, Tuxedo, New York 10987. OFFICER DELIA is a party to this action individually and in his capacity as an agent of the TOWN and/or the POLICE

DEPARTMENT. At all times relevant to this action, OFFICER DELIA, was, upon information and belief, a Police Officer duly employed by the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT. Additionally, at all times relevant to this action, OFFICER DELIA was acting and/or holding himself out as acting within the scope of his employment with the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT. OFFICER DELIA is being sued individually and in his official capacity.

12. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, defendant TOWN OF TUXEDO SERGEANT PATRICK WELSH, SHIELD NUMBER 17, (hereinafter referred to as "SERGEANT WELSH" or "WELSH"), was and is a citizen of the United States, and currently resides in the State of New York, with a last known business address at TOWN OF TUXEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT, located at 1075 State Route 17, Tuxedo, New York 10987. SERGEANT WELSH is a party to this action individually and in his capacity as an agent of the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT. At all times relevant to this action, SERGEANT WELSH, was, upon information and belief, a Police Sergeant duly employed by the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT. Additionally, at all times relevant to this action, SERGEANT WELSH was acting and/or holding himself out as acting within the scope of his employment with the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT. SERGEANT WELSH is being sued individually and in his official capacity.

**RIGHTS:**

13. Plaintiff has a right to be free from illegal searches and seizures of his person; a right to be free from unlawful arrest, detention, and imprisonment; a right to be free of any conspiracy to deprive him of those rights; and a right to equal protection of the laws; civil rights secured to plaintiff by the Second, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and by Title 42 of the United States, 42 Code, Sections 1983 and 1985, as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of New York.

**DUTIES:**

14. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant POLICE DEPARTMENT had and still has full power and authority to provide initial and ongoing training, and to supervise and control the conduct and action of police officers employed by it and/or defendant TOWN, in the exercise of police functions.

15. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, it was and remains the duty and special duty of the defendant POLICE DEPARTMENT, owed to plaintiff, to monitor, supervise, and control the conduct and actions of the aforesaid police officers employed by it and/or defendant TOWN, in the exercise of police functions.

16. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant TOWN had and still has full power and authority to provide initial and ongoing

training and to supervise and control the conduct and action of police officers employed by it and/or defendant POLICE DEPARTMENT, in the exercise of police functions.

17. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, it was and remains the duty and special duty of the defendant TOWN, owed to plaintiff, to monitor, supervise and control the conduct and actions of the aforesaid police officers employed by it and/or defendant POLICE DEPARTMENT, in the exercise of police functions.

18. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, it was and remains the duty of defendants OFFICER DELIA and SERGEANT WELSH, owed to plaintiff, to carry out their official police duties in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution and laws of New York State and the United States of America.

19. At all times relevant herein, it is alleged that all defendants breached these duties owed to plaintiff.

#### **ALLEGATIONS:**

20. On December 4, 2006, at approximately 9:00 a.m., MERRING was operating his motor vehicle south bound on Route 17, in the Town of Tuxedo, County of Orange, State of New York. Defendant DELIA, undertook a vehicle and traffic stop, in a marked police vehicle. MERRING complied by pulling over on Stone Ridge Road in the Town of Tuxedo. OFFICER DELIA pulled in behind MERRING. OFFICER DELIA, in an angry manner, asked for the plaintiff's driver's license, registration, and insurance card. Plaintiff complied and provided the same. Plaintiff volunteered the information to

OFFICER DELIA that he was carrying on his person a handgun duly licensed and permitted in New York State. OFFICER DELIA inquired as to the reason for his being armed. Plaintiff advised that he had a valid full-carry permit and that he was on his way to his employment at a sporting good store. OFFICER DELIA advised that this was not a valid reason. OFFICER DELIA made a cellular telephone call, and thereafter another TOWN OF TUXEDO marked police vehicle pulled in behind the plaintiff's vehicle, with emergency lights flashing.

21. SERGEANT WELSH exited this latter vehicle and approached plaintiff's vehicle and inquired as to the reason that the plaintiff was carrying his duly licensed handgun. The plaintiff responded that he has a full, unrestricted license to carry a handgun in New York State issued by Delaware County, and that he was on his way to his employment at a sporting good store, at which his employment duties included selling firearms. SERGEANT WELSH replied that this is not a valid reason.

22. SERGEANT WELSH directed the plaintiff to step out of his vehicle. The plaintiff asked why and began to exit his vehicle. SERGEANT WELSH grabbed plaintiff and pulled him the rest of the way out of his vehicle and told him to put his hands up. SERGEANT WELSH then conducted a search of the plaintiff's person. SERGEANT WELSH removed the handgun from its holster on the person of the plaintiff. SERGEANT WELSH then began to search the plaintiff and seized a legal folding knife from his pants pocket, claimed it was an illegal knife, a gravity knife in violation of New York State Penal Law. SERGEANT WELSH then advised the plaintiff to put his hands behind his back and advised him that he was under arrest. The plaintiff inquired as to

what charge, and SERGEANT WELSH advised him that he was in possession of a gravity knife, which, according to SERGEANT WELSH, was illegal to possess in New York State. The plaintiff was then placed in handcuffs behind his back and placed in the back OFFICER DELIA's patrol car.

23. Without any consent from the plaintiff, SERGEANT WELSH and OFFICER DELIA conducted an illegal search of plaintiff's motor vehicle, retrieving an old stick. SERGEANT WELSH advised plaintiff that he was going to be charged as well for that.

24. SERGEANT WELSH inquired repeatedly thereafter as to the plaintiff's valid reason for having a firearm on his person, to which plaintiff responded repeatedly, while he remained in handcuffs in the back of OFFICER DELIA's marked police vehicle, that he had a full unrestricted license to carry a handgun, in response to which SERGEANT WELSH claimed that that was not a reason for being armed. SERGEANT WELSH inquired as to whether the plaintiff had any weapons at his girlfriend's house and asked if there were any automatic weapons there, to which the plaintiff responded in the negative. SERGEANT WELSH inquired as to the licensing process for handguns in New York State, to which the plaintiff responded, advising SERGEANT WELSH of the process by which a permit is applied for. Plaintiff's vehicle, although at a safe location, was towed at the direction of SERGEANT WELSH and/or OFFICER DELIA without plaintiff's permission.



25. Plaintiff was taken in OFFICER DELIA's marked police vehicle to the POLICE DEPARTMENT headquarters, located at 1075 State Route 17, Tuxedo, New York 10987.

26. OFFICER DELIA directed the plaintiff to sit down at a desk. SERGEANT WELSH then presented the plaintiff with a copy of the New York State Penal Law and directed the plaintiff to read it. The plaintiff read and advised that the portion referred to did not apply to him. SERGEANT WELSH became angry and raised his voice and told the plaintiff in sum and substance: "Yes, it fucking does. I've been doing this for eleven (11) years. I know what I'm doing. Eight (8) of those years as Sergeant." Plaintiff was required to remove his belt, empty his pockets, and then SERGEANT WELSH directed plaintiff to a holding cell. Plaintiff was then held in a holding cell.

27. SERGEANT WELSH repeatedly came to the plaintiff inquiring as to the licensing system for handguns in New York State. SERGEANT WELSH repeatedly advised that he did not like guns, that he hated guns, that he hated that plaintiff had a gun and that the plaintiff was "with the NRA." Plaintiff responded that the SERGEANT had a gun. The SERGEANT responded, in sum and substance: "I am a good shot."

28. Some time thereafter, the plaintiff was subjected to the booking process, including fingerprinting and photographing, and was seated with the SERGEANT for further paperwork regarding arrest processing to be finalized. The SERGEANT required the plaintiff to post \$100.00 bail in order to be released. It was

only at that time that OFFICER DELIA advised plaintiff that a Uniform Traffic Ticket was being issued, claiming that the plaintiff was traveling at 69 mph in a zone in which the speed limit was 55 mph, and then OFFICER DELIA yelled loudly at the plaintiff, in sum and substance: "Get out of my office." Plaintiff was permitted to leave the police station after he had been charged with a violation of Penal Law Section 265.01, criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, a Class A misdemeanor under New York State Penal Law, and given an appearance ticket for the same, directing him to appear in the Town of Tuxedo Justice Court on December 28, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. Copies of the Information and Appearance Ticket are annexed hereto as Exhibit A. Plaintiff was also issued a Uniform Traffic Ticket Number MDT200533K, charging him with Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1180(b), speeding in a 55 mph zone, going 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, a traffic infraction. A copy of said Uniform Traffic Ticket is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

29. Plaintiff was made to retrieve his vehicle, which had been towed at the direction of defendants, and was made to incur a monetary expense in doing so, reflected in a receipt from "Tuxedo Auto Body, Inc., dated December 4, 2006," a copy of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit C.

30. Upon information and belief, said defendants POLICE OFFICER DELIA and/or SERGEANT WELSH, notified the Delaware County Sheriff regarding such arrest, resulting in an Order being issued by a Delaware County Judge, a copy of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit D, suspending plaintiff's pistol permit, reflecting a conspiracy on the part of said defendants to deprive plaintiff of his civil rights.

31. On January 25, 2007, before the Hon. Hume Styer, Town of Tuxedo Justice Court Judge, the aforesaid charges were resolved as follows: the claimant pleaded guilty to a violation of Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1201(a), stopping or parking on the pavement, a traffic infraction, in satisfaction of the speeding ticket, and a fine of \$100.00 was imposed, which was paid by the claimant at Court. The charge of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, the Class A misdemeanor, under Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 265.01, was dismissed. A copy of the Certificate of Disposition is annexed hereto as Exhibit E.

32. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, defendants SERGEANT WELSH and OFFICER DELIA were acting under color of law, that is, under color of the Constitution, statutes, laws, charter, ordinances, rules, regulations, customs and usages of the United States, the State of New York, and the TOWN OF TUXEDO.

33. Plaintiff was humiliated and embarrassed in front of his father and publicly.

34. Plaintiff was arrested without probable cause.

35. Plaintiff was arrested in the absence of a warrant.

36. Plaintiff's person and car were illegally searched.

37. Plaintiff's personal property was illegally seized, and has not yet been returned to him.

38. Plaintiff was held in custody with his hands in handcuffs behind his back in the back seat of a marked police vehicle and detained in a holding cell at the POLICE DEPARTMENT prior to be allowed to return to his home.

39. Plaintiff was subjected to verbal abuse and intimidation from defendants OFFICER DELIA and SERGEANT WELSH.

40. Due to the actions of one or more of the defendants, plaintiff suffered physical, emotional, and financial injury.

41. As a result of the acts of one or more of the defendants, and the breaches of the duties owed to the plaintiff by the defendants, plaintiff was subjected to unlawful harassment and intimidation; unlawful detention and false and unlawful arrest; illegal search; unlawful and false placement in handcuffs in the back seat of a marked police patrol vehicle; false imprisonment; embarrassment and humiliation before his father; public humiliation; and plaintiff suffered violations of his civil rights under New York State and Federal Law and the New York State and United States Constitutions.

42. Plaintiff was required to incur legal expenses in order to properly and adequately defend against these false charges, and lost time from his employment.

43. Notice of plaintiff's claims against defendants TOWN and POLICE DEPARTMENT, setting forth the nature of the claims, the description of the time, place and manner in which the injuries were sustained by the plaintiff and the name and post office address of the plaintiff and of his attorneys, was presented to the governing body of said defendants on or about March 1, 2007.

44. The Notice of Claim was filed within the statutory time period for the filing of said Notice of Claim, provided by New York State General Municipal Law.

45. At least thirty (30) days have elapsed since service of such Notice of Claim without payment or adjustment of such claim and adjustment or payment thereof has been rejected or refused.

**CAUSES OF ACTION:**

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS:**

46. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 45, as if set forth at length herein.

47. The acts of defendants described above were all performed with malice and premeditation under color of state law with willful and wanton disregard of plaintiff's civil rights under the Second, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution and in contravention of the letter and spirit of 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983 and 1985, and defendant POLICE OFFICERS conspired to deprive plaintiff of such rights.

48. As a result of these acts, plaintiff has suffered great emotional trauma, physical discomfort, embarrassment; was deprived of his liberty; his personal reputation was impaired; was forced to retain counsel at monetary expense to represent him in criminal proceedings stemming from his illegal arrest; and was required to employ and did employ the undersigned attorney to prosecute this action, thereby becoming obligated to pay said attorney a reasonable fee for their services in connection with and in furtherance of this action arising out of the conduct of the defendants.

49. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF  
ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS:**

50. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 49, as if set forth at length herein.

51. In doing the acts and things complained of, defendants were conspirators engaged in a scheme and conspiracy designed and intended to deny and deprive plaintiff of civil rights guaranteed to him under the Second, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution and in contravention of the letter and spirit of 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983 and 1985.

52. As a direct consequence and result of the acts of defendants hereinabove complained of, plaintiff was deprived of his liberty; denied due process of law; and denied equal protection of the law; suffered much anxiety and distress, discomfort, embarrassment and humiliation; was required to spend substantial sums of money for legal representation and other expenses, such as towing expenses, associated with legal proceedings defending himself against criminal charges arising from defendants' illegal acts against him; and was required to divert substantial time, effort and resources from employment and employment opportunities.

53. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS TOWN AND POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

54. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 53, as if set forth at length herein.

55. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT, negligently and/or intentionally acted under color of state law, engaged in a pattern and practice of acts and omissions and/or sanctioned a pattern and practice of actions and/or conduct and/or omissions by its officers designed to and/or which had the effect of depriving individuals of their clear rights under the Second, Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

56. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT, negligently and/or intentionally failed to properly train and/or supervise their law enforcement agents as to the appropriate and reasonable methods for identifying the commissions of acts sufficient to justify legal arrest and/or effectuation of legal and reasonable arrests.

57. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT, negligently and/or intentionally acted under color of state law, engaged in a pattern and practice and/or sanctioned a pattern and practice of actions and/or conduct by its officers designed to and/or which had the effect of depriving individuals of their clear rights under the Second, Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

58. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, the TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT, negligently and/or intentionally failed to properly train and/or supervise their law enforcement agents as to the appropriate and reasonable methods for identifying the commissions of acts sufficient to justify legal arrests and/or effectuation of legal and reasonable arrests.

59. Based upon the foregoing, one and/or more of the above municipalities are vicariously liable for the violations of plaintiff's constitutional rights by one and/or more of its/their respective employees.

60. Based upon the foregoing, one or more of the above-named defendants violated 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, given that these actions were undertaken under color of state law.

61. That as a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional acts described above, the plaintiff has been injured, and hereby demands the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION,  
AGAINST DEFENDANTS DELIA and WELSH FOR  
INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS:**

62. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 61, as if set forth at length herein.

63. Defendants DELIA and WELSH intentionally engaged in behavior that harassed and intimidated the plaintiff and falsely detained, arrested, and charged the



plaintiff maliciously and in a manner that was extreme, outrageous, unjustified, and done with actual malice and wanton indifference to and deliberate disregard for the civil rights of plaintiff, causing plaintiff to suffer physical and emotional distress for which said defendants are individually liable.

64. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION,  
AGAINST DEFENDANTS TOWN AND POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

65. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 64, as if set forth at length herein.

66. At all times relevant hereto, defendants DELIA and WELSH were acting within the scope of their employment as officers of POLICE DEPARTMENT and TOWN.

67. The defendants TOWN and POLICE DEPARTMENT are liable for compensatory damages under the doctrine of respondeat superior for the intentional torts of defendants DELIA and WELSH committed within the scope of their employment.

68. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION,  
AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR NEGLIGENT  
INFLECTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS:**

69. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 68, as if set forth at length herein.

70. One and/or more of the above named defendants, through gross negligence, negligence and carelessness, caused plaintiff to be wrongfully detained, arrested, searched, and interrogated. This conduct resulted in unreasonable physical and emotional harm to the plaintiff.

71. Upon information and belief, the defendants, TOWN and/or the POLICE DEPARTMENT knew or should have known that the defendants, OFFICER DELIA and/or SERGEANT WELSH were wrongfully detaining and/or interrogating the plaintiff, yet they failed to act.

72. This conduct on the part of the defendants constitutes negligent infliction of emotional distress.

73. That as a direct and proximate result of the acts described above, the plaintiff has been irreparably injured, and hereby demands the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION, AGAINST  
DEFENDANTS TOWN AND POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLIGENCE:**

74. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 73, as if set forth at length herein.

75. Defendant TOWN and POLICE DEPARTMENT owed plaintiff a duty to properly and adequately train, monitor, supervisor and otherwise control their police officers in the exercise of police functions.

76. Defendants TOWN and POLICE DEPARTMENT failed to provide proper and adequate training, supervision, and control of defendants DELIA and WELSH, which failure constitutes negligence.

77. As a proximate course of the said negligence of TOWN and POLICE DEPARTMENT, plaintiff sustained the injuries and violations of his rights as aforesaid.

78. Said negligence constituted a wilful and wanton indifference and deliberate disregard for the rights of private citizens, including plaintiff.

79. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION,  
AGAINST DELIA AND WELSH:**

80. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 79, as if set forth at length herein.

81. Defendants DELIA and WELSH used criminal process against plaintiff in order to harass him and in order to cover up their own wrongdoing and to avoid civil liability for their own acts relating to intimidating the plaintiff, and wrongfully taking him into custody by force without warrant or probable cause that any crime had been committed.

82. Said defendants falsely arrested and falsely imprisoned plaintiff.

83. As a proximate result of this malicious abuse of process, false arrest, and false imprisonment, plaintiff suffered the damages as aforesaid.

84. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff seeks an award of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR  
PUNITIVE DAMAGES AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS:**

85. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 84, as if set forth at length herein.

86. The acts, conduct and behavior of the defendants, and each of them, were performed knowingly, intentionally, maliciously, and conspiratorially, and were so egregious as to shock the conscience.

87. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff is entitled to an award of punitive damages in the sum of FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000.00).

**AS AND FOR A NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR  
ATTORNEYS' FEES AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS:**

88. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation set forth herein above in paragraphs 1 through 87, as if set forth at length herein.

89. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1988.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs demand judgment against the defendants as follows:

a. On the First Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00); and,

b. On the Second Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00); and,

c. On the Third Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00); and,

d. On the Fourth Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00); and,

e. On the Fifth Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00); and,

f. On the Sixth Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00); and,

g. On the Seventh Cause of Action, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00);

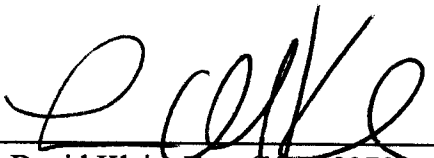
h. On the Eighth Cause of Action, the sum of FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000.00);

i. On the Ninth Cause of Action, reasonable attorneys' fees;

j. Costs and disbursements; and,

k. Such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper in the premises.

Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York  
November 15, 2007

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee David Klein, Esq. (LDK 2270)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
11 Market Street, Suite 204  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845-454-9200



STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORANGE

TOWN

COURT

TOWN

of TUXEDO

Defendant: NA

(Relationship to alleged victim)

Alleged Victim: NA

(Relationship to defendant)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

--VS.--

Date of Birth

ERIC K MERRING

12/03/1969

Defendant(s)

## INFORMATION

BE IT KNOWN THAT, by this INFORMATION, A DELIA

as the Complainant herein, STATIONED at TUXEDO TOWN POLICE DEPT.

accuses the above mentioned Defendant(s), with having committed the MISDEMEANOR

of CRIM POSS WEAP - 4TH DEG

in violation of Section 265.01

Subdivision of the PENAL

Law of the State of New York.

That on or about 12/04/2006 at about 09:08 AM

in the TOWN of TUXEDO, County of ORANGE, the defendant(s)

A PERSON IS GUILTY OF CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON IN THE FOURTH DEGREE WHEN: (1) HE POSSESSES ANY FIREARM, ELECTRONIC DART GUN, ELECTRONIC STUN GUN, GRAVITY KNIFE, SWITCHBLADE KNIFE, PILUM BALLISTIC KNIFE, METAL KNUCKLE KNIFE, CANE SWORD, BILLY, BLACKJACK, BLUDGEON, METAL KNUCKLES, CHUKA STICK, SAND BAG, SANDCLUB, WRIST-BRACE TYPE SLINGSHOT OR SLUNGSHOT, SHIRKEN OR "KUNG FU" STAR.

AT THE AFOREMENTIONED DATE AND PLACE THE DEFENDANT DID IN FACT POSSESS A GRAVITY KNIFE IN HIS LEFT FRONT POCKET OF HIS JEANS, AS WELL AS A BILLY CLUB UNDER THE FRONT PASSENGER SEAT OF HIS VEHICLE. ALL CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATUTE IN SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.

The above allegations of fact are made by the Complainant herein on direct knowledge and/or upon information and belief, with the sources of Complainant's information and the grounds for belief being the facts contained in the attached SUPPORTING DEPOSITION(s) of:

WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a Warrant be issued for the arrest of the said Defendant(s).

--OR--

WHEREAS, an Appearance Ticket was issued to the said Defendant, directing him to appear before this court at 04:30 PM on DECEMBER 28, 2006

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the State of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor. (PL 210.45)

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 4<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2006

--OR--

Subscribes and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLAINANT -

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## APPEARANCE TICKET\*

Issued To: ERIC K MERRING 12/03/1969  
 NAME OF DEFENDANT DATE OF BIRTH

343 BOB HOLLOWAY RD DELANCEY NY 13752  
 STREET AND NUMBER CITY OR TOWN STATE ZIP CODE

You are hereby directed to appear in the court described below on

12/28/2006 at 04:30 PM in connection with your alleged  
 commission of the offense of CRIM POSS WEAP - 4TH DEG contrary to the  
 provisions of section 265.01 of the PENAL law.

Name of court TUXEDO TOWN COURT

Location of court 1 TEMPLE DRIVE BOX 605 TUXEDO NY 10987

\* NOTE - If you fail to appear on the date and at the time indicated, the court may issue a summons or warrant for your arrest (Criminal Procedure Law Section 150.60).

If you have posted bail, the bail will become forfeit upon your failure to comply with the directions of this ticket (Criminal Procedure Law Section 150.30).

Issued and subscribed by:

Antony Delli 0024  
 SIGNATURE OF MEMBER SHIELD

TZS / DIVISION/PRECINCT

12/04/2006

DATE ISSUED



New York State - Department of Motor Vehicles  
UNIFORM TRAFFIC TICKET

MDT200533K

POLICE AGENCY

To be completed by Police Officer  
and given to Motorist

TOWN OF TUXEDO POLICE

Local Police Code  
03665

Last Name (Defendant) <b>MERRING</b>		First Name <b>ERIC</b>		M.I. <b>K</b>
Number and Street <b>343 BOB HOLLOWAY RD</b>				
City <b>DELANCEY</b>	State <b>NY</b>	Zip Code <b>13752</b>	Owner Oper. <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Lic. Class <b>D</b>
Client ID Number <b>703839998</b>		Sex <b>M</b>	Date Expires <b>12/03/2011</b>	
Lic. State <b>NY</b>	Date of Birth <b>12/03/1969</b>	Veh. Type <b>1</b>	Year <b>1987</b>	Make <b>CADI</b>
Plate Number <b>CSE5066</b>	Reg. State <b>NY</b>	Registration Expires <b>01/19/2008</b>		

## THE PERSON DESCRIBED ABOVE IS CHARGED AS FOLLOWS

Time <b>9:03 AM</b>	Date of Offense <b>12/04/2006</b>	VIOLATION OF <b>NYS V AND T LAW</b>		
Section Sub-Section <b>1180B</b>	Tr Inf <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Misd <input type="radio"/>	MPH <b>72</b>	MPH Zone <b>55</b>
Description of Violation <b>SPEED OVER 55 ZONE</b>		US DOT#		
Place of Occurrence <b>RT 17 S/B</b>		Hwy No <b>17</b>		
C/T/V Name <b>TUXEDO, TOWN OF - 3665</b>	County <b>ORANGE</b>	Hwy Type <b>2</b>		Loc Code <b>3665</b>
AFFIRMED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY		Date Affirmed <b>12/04/2006</b>	Off Assign <b>1</b>	
(Officer's Signature) <i>Andy Delli</i>		Arrest Type <b>1 - PATROL</b>		
Officer's Last Name <b>DELIA</b>		Badge/Shield <b>0024</b>		M.I.

Radar Officer's Signature

THIS MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO BE HANDLED ON THE APPEARANCE DATE BELOW

TUXEDO TOWN COURT		
Address <b>1 TEMPLE DRIVE BOX 605</b>		
City <b>TUXEDO</b>	State <b>NY</b>	Zip <b>10987</b>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> RETURN BY MAIL BEFORE OR IN PERSON ON: <input type="radio"/> MUST APPEAR IN PERSON		
Date <b>01/11/2007</b>	Time <b>4:30 PM</b>	

**A PLEA OF GUILTY TO THIS CHARGE IS EQUIVALENT TO A CONVICTION AFTER TRIAL. IF YOU ARE CONVICTED, NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE LIABLE TO A PENALTY, BUT IN ADDITION YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE OR MOTORCYCLE, AND YOUR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION, IF ANY, ARE SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.**

Upon conviction you may be subject to a mandatory surcharge in the amount prescribed by law.

Your failure to respond may result in a warrant for your arrest or suspension of your driver's license and/or a default judgement against you.

## TO PLEAD BY MAIL (NOT TO BE USED FOR MISDEMEANORS)

- If you are pleading "GUILTY" by mail, place an "X" through SECTION B, then complete and sign SECTION A.

- If you are pleading "NOT GUILTY" by mail, place an "X" through SECTION A, then complete and sign SECTION B.

- Mail this form to the Court noted on this ticket by Registered, Certified, or First Class Mail, with Return Receipt Requested.

- DO NOT use this form for Misdemeanors or for a third or subsequent speeding violation in an 18 month period, instead you must appear in the Court noted on this ticket in person.

- If the Court denies your plea, you will be notified by mail to appear in the Court noted on the front of this ticket.

## SECTION A - PLEA OF GUILTY

To the Court listed on the other side of this ticket:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, residing at \_\_\_\_\_, have been charged with the violation as specified on the other side of this ticket. I acknowledge receipt of the warning printed in bold type on the other side of this ticket, and I waive arraignment in open court and the aid of an Attorney. I plead GUILTY to the offense as charged and request that this charge be disposed of and a fine or penalty fixed by the court.

Additionally, I make the following statement of explanation (optional):

All statements are made under penalty of perjury:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION B - PLEA OF NOT GUILTY

The following notice applies to you if the officer did not issue you a supporting deposition with your ticket.

**NOTICE: YOU ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A SUPPORTING DEPOSITION FURTHER EXPLAINING THE CHARGES PROVIDED YOU REQUEST SUCH SUPPORTING DEPOSITION WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE DIRECTED TO RESPOND TO THE COURT NOTED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS APPEARANCE TICKET. DO YOU REQUEST A SUPPORTING DEPOSITION?**

Yes ☐ No ☐SUPPORTING DEPOSITION PROVIDED WHEN THIS TICKET WAS ISSUED? NO ☐SPEEDING (Gen 101) ☐GENERAL (Gen 101A) ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Mail this NOT GUILTY Plea within 48 hours. The court will notify you by First Class Mail of your trial date.

**APPLICANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE MUST SUBMIT NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN BELOW.**

Name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**FAILURE TO ANSWER THIS TICKET WILL RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE AND A DEFAULT JUDGEMENT AGAINST YOU.**



**TUXEDO AUTO BODY, INC.****COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIR**
 Route 17 P.O. Box 155  
 SOUTHFIELDS, NEW YORK 10975  
 (914) 351-5261

DATE <u>12/4/06</u>		TIME	A.M.	REQUESTED BY																		
LOCATION OF VEHICLE																						
NAME <u>MARRIAGE</u>		PHONE																				
ESS		ZIP																				
MILEAGE		SERVICE TIME		EXTRA PERSON																		
WISH		FINISH		FINISH																		
START		START		START																		
TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL																		
YEAR <u>87</u>	MAKE / MODEL / COLOR <u>CADILLAC</u>		DRIVER																			
STATE	LIC. NO.	VEHICLE I.D. NO.																				
<input type="checkbox"/> SLING/HOIST TOW <input type="checkbox"/> WHEEL LIFT <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BED/RAMP <input type="checkbox"/> START <input type="checkbox"/> LOCK OUT		<input type="checkbox"/> FLAT TIRE <input type="checkbox"/> OUT OF GAS <input type="checkbox"/> WRECK <input type="checkbox"/> RECOVERY		<b>SPECIAL EQUIPMENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE LINE WINCHING <input type="checkbox"/> DUAL LINE WINCHING <input type="checkbox"/> SNATCH BLOCKS <input type="checkbox"/> SCOTCH BLOCKS <input type="checkbox"/> DOLLY																		
VEHICLE TOWED TO																						
REMARKS <u>Injured Tow Per Sign</u>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MILEAGE CHARGE</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOWING CHARGE</td> <td><u>100</u></td> <td><u>00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>LABOR CHARGE</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>STORAGE CHARGE</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>TX</u></td> <td><u>8</u></td> <td><u>13</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>108</b></td> <td><b>13</b></td> </tr> </table>			MILEAGE CHARGE			TOWING CHARGE	<u>100</u>	<u>00</u>	LABOR CHARGE			STORAGE CHARGE			<u>TX</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>13</b>
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OPERATOR'S SIGNATURE																						
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE																						

**Road Service**

1862


 To Reorder Call  
 1-800-225-6380

PRODUCT 613

F



2007 JAN 16 PM 1:41  
DELAWARE COUNTY CLERK

At a Special Term of the County Court  
of the State of New York held in and  
for the County of Delaware at Delhi,  
NY, on January 16, 2007.

PRESENT: Hon. Carl F. Becker

~~In the Matter of the License to Carry~~  
or Possess Pistols and Revolvers of

ERIC K. MERRING

ORDER SUSPENDING LICENSE

INDEX NO. 2007 - 065

A License pursuant to Section 400.00 of the Penal Law having heretofore been issued by the Court on April 12, 1988, bearing No. 9413, and it appearing that there is good cause to suspend such License because Eric K. Merring was arrested on December 4, 2006, and arraigned in the Town Court of the Town of Tuxedo, New York, on the charge of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, in violation of Section 265.01(01) of the Penal Law of the State of New York;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED, that the License of Eric K. Merring to possess or carry a pistol or revolver is hereby SUSPENDED, effective immediately, pending disposition of the above charge and further Order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED, that the said Eric K. Merring is hereby DIRECTED to deliver into the possession of the Delaware County Sheriff, or the New York State Police, immediately upon request of a Police Officer, or if no such request is made, then at or before 5:00 o'clock P.M. on the third day following the date of delivery to him of a copy of this Order, the following:

1. His License to carry or possess a pistol or revolver; and
2. Any and all pistols or revolvers which are currently in the possession or control of the said Eric K. Merring and which are not antique firearms as defined in the Penal Law of the State of New York.

ENTER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl F. Becker, JCC

DATED: Delhi, New York  
January 16, 2007

Kimber	45 ACP	Serial No. K062146
H&R	22/22MA	Serial No. AY049407
S&W	9mm	Serial No. TDH9044
Ruger	22/22MA	Serial No. 261-80682
Ruger	357 MAG	Serial No. 172-69114
Ruger	44	Serial No. 500-88105
S&W	45 ACP	Serial No. VBS7971
Davis	38 SPL	Serial No. D112514
Beretta	22LR	Serial No. BES21780U
Ruger	22	Serial No. 263-36434
Walther	380	Serial No. S037498
Colt	357 MAG	Serial No. T69718
S&W	357 MAG	Serial No. 143K800
S&W	44 MAG	Serial No. N311202
Interarms	22LR	Serial No. H001515
Colt	357 MAG	Serial No. K40292
Ruger	357 MAG	Serial No. 173-64507

04-11-07

11-16-07

11-16-07





# CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION

STATE OF NEW YORK  
ORANGE COUNTY

TUXEDO TOWN COURT  
CRIMINAL PART

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

VS.

ERIC K. MERRING; Defendant

CASE NO: 06120065

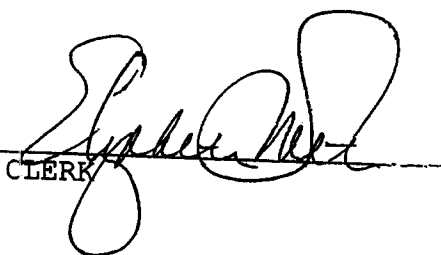
Date of Birth: 12/03/1969  
Date of Arrest: 12/04/2006  
Disposition Date: 01/26/2007

JC501 no: 31980927L  
NYSID no: 6057113Q

Section Charged	Section Disposed	Ticket No & Description	Disposition	Fine	Civil-Fee	Surchg
PL 265.01	PL 265.01	APPEARANCE CRIM POS WEAP-4	Dismissed	0.00	0.00	0.00
VTL 1180 0B	VTL 1201 0A	MDT200533K STOP/PARK VIOL	FINE	100.00	0.00	0.00

Upon a proper request for an official statement of disposition, I certify that the above named defendant having appeared before this court was charged as shown above. Each of the charges was disposed of as indicated.

Dated: The 5th day of February 2007

  
COURT CLERK

NOTE: A copy of the request will be filed with this certificate in the case records.

CAUTION: This information must not be divulged if the case is sealed or where the defendant has been adjudicated a youthful offender.

Copies: \_\_\_ Court, \_\_\_ Defendant, \_\_\_ Agency, \_\_\_ DA